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Commission on Sustainable Development
Ninth session
16-27 April 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman and such other officers as may be required. In previous sessions, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom also served as Rapporteur.

In its resolution 1997/63, the Economic and Social Council decided on the following future arrangements for the election of the Bureau of the Commission in order to

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implement the provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

> "(a) The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new chairman and other members of the bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council;
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> "...
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> "(c) The terms of office of the members of the Commission will begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council (at its resumed organizational session of the previous year) and will end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they are re-elected."

On 5 May 2000, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Bedrich Moldan (Czech Republic) as Chairman, and David Stuart (Australia), Alison Drayton (Guyana) and Matia Kiwanuka (Uganda) as Vice-Chairmen. It postponed to a later session the election of one Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

At the beginning of the ninth session, the Commission may wish to elect the remaining Vice-Chairman from an Asian State, as well as a Rapporteur.

The membership of the Commission at its ninth session is contained in annex II.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 2000/227 of 26 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eighth session and approved the provisional agenda for the ninth session.

3. Sectoral theme: energy

In accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 1998-2002, one of the sectoral themes for the ninth session is "Energy", and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 8/8, the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development convened from 26 February to 2 March 2001 and considered the issue of energy. The Commission will have before it, for its consideration, the report of the Group of Experts.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on energy and sustainable development: options and strategies for action on key issues (E/CN.17/ESD/2001/2)

Report of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/2001/__)

4. Sectoral theme: atmosphere

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2002, the other sectoral theme for the ninth session is "Atmosphere".

Also, in accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 1998-2002 and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 8/8, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group convened from 6 to 9 March 2001 considered the theme "Atmosphere" prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its ninth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of the atmosphere (E/CN.17/2001/2)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Transport and Atmosphere (E/CN.17/2001/__)

5. Economic sector/major group: transport

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2002, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, at its ninth session, in 2001, would consider the issue of transport.

In accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 2000-2002 and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 8/8, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group convened from 6 to 9 March 2001 considered the theme "Transport" in conjunction with the theme "Atmosphere", prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its ninth session.

In connection with the above, the Bureau of the ninth session of the Commission, after consultations with delegations and major groups, decided to hold at that session a multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable energy and transport which would consider the following four topics:

(a) Achieving equitable access to sustainable energy;

(b) Sustainable choices for producing, distributing and consuming energy;

(c) Public-private partnerships to achieve sustainable energy for transport;

(d) Sustainable transport planning: choices and models for human settlement designs and vehicle alternatives.

The Bureau also agreed on the need to invite representatives from the five major groups to participate in the dialogue, namely: local authorities, scientific communities, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, and business and industry. Also attending the dialogue will be representatives of United Nations

organizations, as well as other international institutions. The segment will be organized along the same lines as previous multi-stakeholder dialogue segments of the Commission. The Bureau further reiterated the importance of ensuring a geographical balance in major groups' delegations to the dialogue, in particular the need for effective participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The dialogue will be held on 16, 17 and 18 April 2001 (four meetings) (see annex I).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on transport (E/CN.17/2001/3)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Transport and Atmosphere (E/CN.17/2001/__)

6. Cross-sectoral theme: information for decision-making and participation

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2001, one of the cross-sectoral themes for the ninth session is "Information for decision-making and participation".

Also, in accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 1998-2002 and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 8/8, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group convened from 12 to 16 March 2001 considered the theme "Information for decision-making and participation" in conjunction with the theme "International cooperation for an enabling environment", prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its ninth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making and participation (E/CN.17/2001/4 and Add.1)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Information for Decision-making and Participation and on International Cooperation for an Enabling Environment (E/CN.17/2001/__)

7. Cross-sectoral theme: international cooperation for an enabling environment

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2002, the other cross-sectoral theme for the ninth session is "International cooperation for an enabling environment".

Also, in accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 1998-2002 and as reiterated by the Commission in its decision 8/8, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group convened from 12 to 16 March 2001 considered the theme "International cooperation for an enabling environment" in conjunction with the theme "Information for decision-making and participation", prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its ninth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for an enabling environment for sustainable development (E/CN.17/2001/5)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Information for Decision-making and Participation and on International Cooperation for an Enabling Environment (E/CN.17/2001/__)

8. High-level meeting

In its resolution 47/191, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission adopt at its first session a multi-year thematic programme of work, including a high-level meeting, with ministerial participation, to have an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, to consider emerging policy issues and to provide necessary political impetus to the implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the commitments contained therein.

At its first session, the Commission decided that, as a rule, its high-level meetings should last for a period of up to three days, and that they should be integral parts of the session of the Commission and of its decision-making process. The organization of work of the high-level meetings should provide, inter alia, for an open exchange of views among the participants and for holding informal meetings, as the need arose, to resolve outstanding issues relating to its work that required high-level consideration. The result of the meeting might be a concise document, should the participants deem that appropriate.

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission, based on the experience gained during the period 1993-1997 and under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, make concerted efforts to attract the greater involvement in its work of ministers and high-level national policy makers responsible for specific economic and social sectors, who, in particular, were encouraged to participate in the annual high-level segment of the Commission, together with the ministers and policy makers responsible for environment and development; the high-level segments of the Commission should become more interactive, and should focus on the priority issues being considered at a particular session; and the Bureau of the Commission should conduct timely and open-ended consultations with a view to improving the organization of the work of the high-level segment (see Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 133 (a)).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on main issues for the high-level segment (E/CN.17/2001/__)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Transport and Atmosphere (E/CN.17/2001/__)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Information for Decision-making and Participation and on International Cooperation for an Enabling Environment (E/CN.17/2001/__)

9. Other matters

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the programme of work of the Division for Sustainable Development for the biennium 2002-2003 (E/CN.17/2001/CRP.___)

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10. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's subsequent session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current session.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its ninth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

The proposed organization of work for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been drawn up on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the Bureau.

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Week of 16-20 April 2001		
Monday, 16 April		
10 a.m.-12 p.m.		Plenary
		Opening of the session
	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		Introductory statements
		Presentations of the outcomes of the ad hoc inter-sessional working groups and other inter-sessional activities
3-6 p.m.	Item 3	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (topic: achieving equitable access to sustainable energy)
Tuesday, 17 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 3	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (topic: sustainable choices for producing, distributing and consuming energy)
3-6 p.m.	Items 3, 5	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (topic: public-private partnerships to achieve sustainable energy for transport)
Wednesday, 18 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 5	Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment (topic: sustainable transport planning: choices and models for human settlement designs and vehicle alternatives)
3-6 p.m.	Item 8	Opening of the high-level segment Panel on financing energy and transport for sustainable development
Thursday, 19 April		
8.30-10.50 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 8	High-level segment Introductory statements General debate
3-4.30 p.m.	Item 8	High-level segment Interactive dialogue on theme 1
4.30-6 p.m.	Item 8	High-level segment General debate (continued)
Friday, 20 April		
8.30-10.50 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting

Date time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 8	**High-level segment** **Interactive dialogue on theme II**
3-5 p.m.	Item 8	**High-level segment** **General debate (concluded)**
5-6 p.m.	Item 8	**Conclusion of the high-level segment**
Week of 23-27 April		
Monday, 23 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.	Items 3 to 7	**Work of the drafting groups**
Tuesday, 24 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.	Items 3 to 7	**Work of the drafting groups**
Wednesday, 25 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.	Items 3 to 7	**Work of the drafting groups**
Thursday, 26 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.	Items 3 to 7	**Work of the drafting groups**
Friday, 27 April		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 9	**Other matters**
	Item 10	**Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Commission**
3-6 p.m.	Item 11	**Adoption of the report of the Commission on its ninth session**
		Closure of the ninth session

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session

Algeria
Angola
Australia
Belarus
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Cameroon
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana
Hungary
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Madagascar
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America